IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-12 (canceled).

Claim 13 (new): A screw holding type screwdriver bit having, at a tip end of a shaft portion thereof, a plurality of blade portions formed with a substantially perpendicular end edge portion at a tip end of each one of said plurality of blade portions, said screwdriver bit being for a screw having a bit engagement groove of a shape selected from the group consisting of cross, a three way form and polygon, wherein said screwdriver bit comprises:

a cut out portion formed by cutting out one of said plurality of blade portions in a direction of an axis of said screwdriver bit;

a guide passage formed by cutting out a part of said shaft portion of said screwdriver bit for a predetermined length extending from said cut out portion;

a protective sleeve provided on and so as to surround an outer circumference of said shaft portion, in which said guide passage is formed, with tip ends of said blade portions partially exposed; and

an elastic piece inserted and disposed between said guide passage extending from said cut out portion and said protective sleeve so that a tip end of said elastic piece, together with said blade portions, is exposed from said protective sleeve and said elastic piece is offset in a circumferential direction with respect to said cut out portion, and wherein

said guide passage has a width slightly greater than a thickness of said one of said plurality of blade portions which is cut out, and said elastic piece is inserted and disposed in said guide passage with a part of said elastic member bent in a circumferential direction of said shaft portion;

said protective sleeve is fastened, by crimping, at a mounting end thereof to a cut-out formed on an outer circumference of said shaft portion, and a rear end of said elastic piece is contacted to and engaged with an inside of said mounting end of said protective sleeve; and

the tip end of said elastic piece, when engaged with a bit engagement groove of said screw by an elastic force that acts in a direction opposite from a screw tightening direction of said screw, holds said screw.

Claim 14 (new): The screw holding type screwdriver according to claim 13, wherein

said elastic piece is, at a rear end thereof, contacted to and engaged with an inside of said crimping-fastened rear end of said protective sleeve, and

said elastic piece is formed with an anchoring projection that engages with an anchoring groove formed, corresponding to said rear end of said elastic piece, in a direction perpendicular to said guide passage.

Claim 15 (new): A screw holding type screwdriver bit having, at a tip end of a shaft portion thereof, a plurality of blade portions formed with a substantially perpendicular end edge portion at a tip end of each one of said plurality of blade portions, said screwdriver bit being for a screw having a bit engagement groove of a shape selected from the group consisting of cross, a three way form and polygon, wherein said screwdriver bit comprises:

a cut out portion formed by cutting out one of said plurality of blade portions in a direction of an axis of said screwdriver bit;

a guide passage formed by cutting out a part of said shaft portion of said screwdriver bit for a predetermined length extending from said cut out portion;

a protective sleeve provided on and so as to surround an outer circumference of said shaft portion, in which said guide passage is formed, with tip ends of said blade portions partially exposed; and

an elastic piece inserted and disposed between said guide passage extending from said cut out portion and said protective sleeve so that a tip end of said elastic piece, together with said blade portions, is exposed from said protective sleeve and said elastic piece is offset in a circumferential direction with respect to said cut out portion, and wherein

said guide passage has a width substantially equal to a thickness of said one of said plurality of blade portions which is cut out, and said guide passage is formed so as to be offset with respect to a circumferential direction of a position of said one of said plurality of blade portions which is cut out so that said elastic piece is inserted and disposed in said guide passage with said elastic member unbent;

said protective sleeve is fastened, by crimping, at a mounting end thereof to a cut-out formed on an outer circumference of said shaft portion, and a rear end of said elastic piece is contacted to and engaged with an inside of said mounting end of said protective sleeve; and

the tip end of said elastic piece, when engaged with a bit engagement groove of said screw by an elastic force that acts in a direction opposite from a screw tightening direction of said screw, holds said screw.

Claim 16 (new): The screw holding type screwdriver according to claim 15, wherein

said elastic piece is, at a rear end thereof, contacted to and engaged with an inside of said crimping-fastened rear end of said protective sleeve, and

said elastic piece is formed with an anchoring projection that engages with an anchoring groove formed, corresponding to said rear end of said elastic piece, in a direction perpendicular to said guide passage.

Claim 17 (new): A screw holding type screwdriver bit having, at a tip end of a shaft portion thereof, a plurality of blade portions formed with a substantially perpendicular end edge portion at a tip end of each one of said plurality of blade portions, said screwdriver bit being for a screw having a bit engagement groove of a shape selected from the group consisting of cross, a three way form and polygon, wherein said screwdriver bit comprises:

a cut out portion formed by cutting out one of said plurality of blade portions in a direction of an axis of said screwdriver bit;

a guide passage formed by cutting out a part of said shaft portion of said screwdriver bit for a predetermined length extending from said cut out portion;

a protective sleeve provided on and so as to surround an outer circumference of said shaft portion, in which said guide passage is formed, with tip ends of said blade portions partially exposed; and

an elastic piece inserted and disposed between said guide passage extending from said cut out portion and said protective sleeve so that a tip end of said elastic piece,

together with said blade portions, is exposed from said protective sleeve and said elastic piece is offset in a radial direction with respect to said cut out portion, and wherein

said guide passage has a width at least equal to a thickness of said one of said plurality of blade portions which is cut out, and said elastic piece is inserted and disposed in said guide passage with a part thereof being bent in a redial direction of said shaft portion;

said protective sleeve is fastened, by crimping, at a mounting end thereof to a cut-out formed on an outer circumference of said shaft portion, and a rear end of said elastic piece is contacted to and engaged with an inside of said mounting end of said protective sleeve; and

the tip end of said elastic piece, when engaged with a bit engagement groove of said screw by an elastic force that acts in a direction opposite from a radial direction of said screw, holds said screw.

Claim 18 (new): A screw holding type screwdriver bit having, at a tip end of a shaft portion thereof, a plurality of blade portions formed with a substantially perpendicular end edge portion at a tip end of each one of said plurality of blade portions, said screwdriver bit being for a screw having a bit engagement groove of a shape selected from the group consisting of cross, a three way form and polygon, wherein said screwdriver bit comprises:

a cut out portion formed by cutting out one of said plurality of blade portions in a direction of an axis of said screwdriver bit and further by cutting out a part of said shaft portion of said screwdriver bit for a predetermined length extending from said one of said plurality of blade portions which is cut out;

a protective sleeve provided on and so as to surround an outer circumference of said shaft portion, in which said cut out portion is formed, with tip ends of said blade portions partially exposed; and

an elastic piece is inserted and disposed between said cut out portion and said protective sleeve so that a tip end of said elastic piece, together with said blade portions, is exposed from said protective sleeve and said elastic piece is offset in a circumferential direction with respect to said cut out portion, and wherein

said cut out portion forms a guide passage, which is for inserting and disposing therein said elastic piece, together with a bent portion formed by bending a part of said protective sleeve which is provided on the outer circumference of said shaft portion so as to surround said blade portions and elastic piece;

said protective sleeve is fastened, by crimping, at a mounting end thereof to a cut-out formed on an outer circumference of said shaft portion, and a rear end of said elastic piece is contacted to and engaged with an inside of said mounting end of said protective sleeve; and

the tip end of said elastic piece, when engaged with a bit engagement groove of said screw by an elastic force that acts in a direction opposite from a screw tightening direction of said screw, holds said screw.

Claim 19 (new): A screw holding type screwdriver bit having, at a tip end of a shaft portion thereof, a plurality of blade portions formed with a substantially perpendicular end edge portion at a tip end of each one of said plurality of blade portions, said screwdriver bit being for a screw having a bit engagement groove of a shape selected from the group consisting of cross, a three way form and polygon, wherein said screwdriver bit comprises:

a cut out portion formed by cutting out one of said plurality of blade portions in a direction of an axis of said screwdriver bit and further by cutting out a part of said shaft portion of said screwdriver bit for a predetermined length extending from said one of said plurality of blade portions which is cut out;

a protective sleeve provided on and so as to surround an outer circumference of said shaft portion, in which said cut out portion is formed, with tip ends of said blade portions partially exposed; and

an elastic piece is inserted and disposed between said cut out portion and said protective sleeve so that a tip end of said elastic piece, together with said blade portions, is exposed from said protective sleeve and said elastic piece is offset in a circumferential direction with respect to said cut out portion, and wherein

said cut out portion, together with a holding pin of an inverted U shape provided in said cut out portion so as to hold a part of said elastic piece therein, forms a guide passage into which said elastic piece is inserted and disposed;

said cut out portion is provided with a holding pin of an inverted U shape for holding a part of said elastic piece therein, thus forming a guide passage into which said elastic piece is inserted and disposed;

said protective sleeve is fastened, by crimping, at a mounting end thereof to a cut-out formed on an outer circumference of said shaft portion, and a rear end of said elastic piece is contacted to and engaged with an inside of said mounting end of said protective sleeve; and

the tip end of said elastic piece, when engaged with a bit engagement groove of said screw by an elastic force that acts in a direction opposite from a screw tightening direction of said screw, holds said screw.